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Message Text

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12
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, JA
SUBJ: PROPOSED NEW JAPANESE SHIPPERS COUNCIL

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO TOMITA, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT MINS OVERSEAS DIV, ARRANGEMENTS FOR SETTING UP A QTE JAPAN SHIPPERS COUNCIL UNQTE ARE NEARING COMPLETION, DESPITE MOT MISGIVINGS. MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION WOULD BE TO DEAL WITH SHIPPING CONFERENCES IN MATTERS AFFECTING EXPORTERS' INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DISCUSSION ON APRIL 25, TOMITA TOLD EMBOFF THAT, LARGELY AT INSTIGATION OF MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI), ARRANGMENETS ARE GOING AHEAD QUICKLY TOWARDS FORMATION OF JAPAN SHIPPERS COUNCIL. TOMITA SAID MOT IS NOT ACTIVELY OPPOSING THIS DEVELOPMENT ALTHOUGH IT BELIEVES PROJECT IS PREMATURE. HE EXPLAINED THAT INTER-NATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES RECENTLY ADOPTED IN GENEVA PROVIDES FOR NEGOTIATION OF CERTAIN MATTERS (SUCH AS GENERAL FREIGHT RATE INCREASES) BETWEEN SHIPPERS ORGANIZATIONS AND SHIPPING CONFERENCES. THUS, MOT RECOGNIZES EVENTUAL NEED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A JAPANESE SHIPPERS ORGANIZATION LEGALLY EMPOWERED TO EN-GAGE IN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO PROVISIONS OF JAPANESE LAW UNDER WHICH MOT
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COULD RECOGNIZE ANY SHIPPERS ORGANIZATION AS A NEGOTIAT-

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ING BODY FOR PURPOSES OF THE CONFERENCE CODE. HE ADDED THAT MOT INTENDS TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION TO CORRECT THIS

SITUATION BEFORE JAPAN RATIFIES CONFERENCE CODE, BUT UNTIL SUCH LEGISLATION IS ENACTED, MOT SEES NO ADVANTAGE OR USEFULNESS IN SETTING UP A NEW SHIPPERS COUNCIL. HE ASSERTED THAT THEY NEW BODY WOULD HAVE NO MORE POWER OR AUTHORITY IN REPRESENTING SHIPPERS' INTERESTS THAN THAT CURRENTLY EXERCISED BY THE COUNCIL OF ALL JAPAN EXPORTERS ASSOCIATIONS (CAJEA).

2. TOMITA INDICATED THAT MITI ESSENTIALLY AGREES WITH MOT'S POSITION THAT THE PROPOSED ORGANIZATION WOULD LACK NEGOTIATING POWERS BUT NEVERTHELESS DOES NOT WANT TO WAIT FOR LEGISLATION BEFORE FORMING THE NEW COUNCIL. MITI APPARENTLY FORESEES, ACCORDING TO TOMITA, THAT CAJEA WILL GRADUALLY GADE AWAY AS THE SHIPPERS COUNCIL TAKES OVER ITS FUNCTIONS, AND ALSO THA THE SHIPPERS COUNCIL ULTIMATELY WILL BE GRANTED NEGOTIATING POWERS ONCE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION IS ENACTED.
SHOESMITH

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